

APHIS – Plant Protection and Quarantine
California Department of Food and Agriculture
Daily Situation Report: Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM)
May 22, 2007

Survey and Diagnostics Information:

Counties	Survey		Diagnostics	
	Number of Traps	Presumptive Positive	Confirmed Positive	
			Today	Total
Alameda	1,230	0	0	143
Amador	33	0	0	0
Calaveras	20	0	0	0
Colusa	27	0	0	0
Contra Costa	1,361	0	2	69
Del Norte	107	0	0	0
El Dorado	77	0	0	0
Fresno	778	0	0	0
Humboldt	74	0	0	0
Imperial	225	0	0	0
Kern	258	0	0	0
Kings	133	0	0	0
Lake	58	0	0	0
Los Angeles	5,251	0	0	0
Madera	187	0	0	0
Marin	715	0	0	11
Mendocino	28	0	0	0
Merced	80	0	0	0
Monterey	1,720	0	0	215
Napa	657	0	0	1
Orange	1,108	0	0	0
Placer	73	0	0	0
Riverside	785	0	0	0
Sacramento	333	0	0	0
San Benito	73	0	0	0
San Bernardino	413	0	0	0
San Diego	788	0	0	0
San Francisco	141	0	0	55
San Joaquin	480	0	0	0
San Luis Obispo	277	0	0	0
San Mateo	781	0	0	11
Santa Barbara	461	0	0	0
Santa Clara	1,387	0	0	3
Santa Cruz	562	0	34	2,703
Solano	231	0	0	0
Sonoma	285	0	0	0
Stanislaus	259	0	0	0
Sutter	110	0	0	0
Tehama	60	0	0	0
Trinity	79	0	0	0
Tulare	563	0	0	0
Tuolumne	48	0	0	0
Ventura	531	0	0	0
Yolo	151	0	0	0
Yuba	50	0	0	0
Total	23,048	0	36	3,211

- **Survey**

- Survey teams continue to implement a rigorous detection and delimiting survey for the light brown apple moth (LBAM), *Epiphyas postvittana*, in 45 counties.
- 23,048 pheromone-baited traps have been deployed to date. Traps are placed in and around retail and production nurseries, at ports of entry, and in the open environment and are being inspected bi-weekly.
- Visual inspections of all nurseries located within 1.5 miles from any traps with confirmed LBAM are conducted for the presence of any life stages.

- **Identification and Diagnostics**

- Trapped moths are forwarded to the California Department of Agriculture's (CDFA) Plant Pest Diagnostics Laboratory for the initial identification. All LBAM "presumptive positive" moths from each county are forwarded to the ARS Systematic Entomology Laboratory (SEL) in Washington, DC, for confirmation. In counties where previous specimens have been confirmed by SEL, subsequent captures are identified by CDFA.
- A total of 3,211 moths have been confirmed to date as LBAM. Most of the captures (99%), however, are from traps located in two specific geographical areas. The first area, representing 91% of all LBAM captures, encompasses southern Santa Cruz and northern Monterey counties. The second area, which represents approximately 8% of captures, includes the contiguous northwest Alameda, western Contra Costa, and northern San Francisco counties. The remaining 1% came from mostly single trap captures in Marin, Napa, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties.
- LBAM immature life stages, including larvae and pupae have been found in a total of thirteen (13) nurseries, cut flower or greenery farms in Monterey, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz counties. All of which have been treated and re-inspected as part of the regulatory requirements.

Operational Update:

- **Technical Working Group (TWG)**

- APHIS has assembled a team of subject matter experts from the United States, Australia, and New Zealand to provide recommendations on survey methods, mitigation tools, and eradication strategies. The TWG toured the infested region on May 16 and completed its two-day meeting on May 17-18 in San Jose, California. The TWG forwarded a set of recommendations designed to provide short and long-term plans to contain, control, and eradicate LBAM in California.

- **Incident Command**

- A total of 112 personnel are on-site (82-CDFA/Counties; 30-APHIS) assuming various roles within the ICS structure.

- **Regulatory Actions**

- CDFA, APHIS, and County personnel continue to conduct inspections and certification of host commodities in the quarantine areas as required by State LBAM regulations and by the Federal Quarantine Order.
- To date, CDFA has issued a total of 223 compliance agreements to establishments located within the quarantine area requiring regular inspections of all nursery stock and report to regulatory officers any suspect LBAM.

- **Trace-back and Trace-forward**

- Trace-back and trace-forward investigations to determine the source and potential distribution of LBAM continue, including the inspection of nursery establishments.
- On May 17, 2007, a nursery in Los Angeles County was inspected because it had received plants from an infested production nursery in Santa Cruz County. The Los Angeles County nursery was determined to be free of LBAM infestation. In the meanwhile, traps were placed onsite for additional monitoring.

- **Treatment**

- Nurseries with host plants that are confirmed as infested with LBAM larvae or pupae are being treated with Chlorpyrifos.
- EPA has issued a “Section 18” exemption for ISOMATE, one of the pheromone formulations used for mating disruption and eradication.
- CDFA and APHIS began to develop operational plans designed to contain, control, and eradicate LBAM in California as recommended by the TWG.

Trade Update:

- APHIS informed trading partners of the LBAM finds in California. Additional reports were provided to Canada and Mexico in response to their requests for additional information. A team from Canada visited California on May 9-11 to view the LBAM response activities. A team from Mexico is scheduled to arrive on May 23.

Communication and Outreach:

- Public Information Officers (PIO) and officials from CDFA, APHIS, and Counties continue to field questions from the press and the public regarding the LBAM finds and the regulatory framework.

Background:

- On February 6, 2007, a private citizen near Berkeley in Alameda County, California, reported that two suspect moths had been captured in a blacklight trap on his property.
- In response, pheromone-baited traps were placed on March 1, 2007, in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Trap inspections began March 7, 2007.
- On March 16, 2007, the ARS Systematic Entomology Laboratory (SEL) in Washington, DC, confirmed that the two samples submitted were positive, and validated the results using morphological testing.
- USDA and CDFA issued press releases on March 22, 2007, announcing the confirmation of LBAM in California. APHIS. Also, APHIS issued a SPRO letter informing States and stakeholders of the LBAM in California.
- CDFA established on April 20, 2007 a LBAM quarantine of at least 182 square miles in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, Marin and Santa Clara counties. The quarantine is expected to expand to include Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties.
- APHIS issued a LBAM Federal Quarantine Order on May 2, 2007, requiring inspection and certification of all nursery stock and host commodities from eight counties in California, including Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz counties.
- The light brown apple moth (LBAM), *Epiphyas postvittana*, is a native pest of Australia and is now widely distributed New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Ireland, and New Caledonia. Although it was reported in Hawaii in the late 1800s, the LBAM find in California is the first on the US mainland.
- If left uncontrolled, LABM could cause significant damage to some 250 plant species, including stone fruit (peaches, plums, nectarines, cherries, and apricots), pome fruit (apples and pears), grapes, and citrus.